



## Solutions from the Land

### Shaping Climate Smart Agriculture and Agroecology Pathways to Achieve Global Sustainable Development Goals

#### Background

- The adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change, put *food security and agriculture at the center of the Global Development agenda*. This recognition was further strengthened in 2016 in the outcomes of both the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Morocco (COP22) and the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Mexico (COP13). The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, launched in 2015, highlights the need to take a nutrition-sensitive approach to agriculture.
- UNFCCC is now developing a first ever agricultural work program named the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA).
  - o Two IPCC subsidiary bodies, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), initiated and are overseeing the development of the KJWA.
  - o Process is being informed by inputs from UN constituted bodies, observer organizations and technical experts across the globe.
  - o KJWA to be submitted to the COP in Nov 2020.
- FAO is currently developing a roadmap/pathway embedding the work on agroecology in FAO's strategic framework; via its "Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative", FAO is assisting countries in the development of policies for agroecology that will transform the global food system and agriculture in support of SDGs.
- On a parallel track, a High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on food security and nutrition is formulating scientific and evidence based reports to shape the UN Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.
- Each of these work streams are being informed and shaped by multiple platforms that have been created to transform global agriculture and the food system.
- U.S. and commercial scale agricultural interests in the developed world are underrepresented in these forums.

#### Issues

- Coalitions comprised of animal welfare, plant-based diet, environmental justice, regenerative agriculture advocates and other aligned partners are advancing a food system reform agenda on multiple fronts, the KJWA being one of several, affirming that:
  - o The food system is broken;
  - o Industrial systems are not working for farmers and are causing environmental degradation;
  - o Farmers are not honored or compensated for delivering ecosystem services
- Among their recommendations:
  - o Reform the food system to make it "climate smart"; think plant based foodstuffs that substitute for meat or dairy;
    - Change what is grown;

- Change how crops are grown
- Change consumer behavior on consumption
- Integrate into Nationally Determined Commitments ( NDCs), programs to shrink the “industrial production “ of livestock;
- Greatly limit the use of commodity crops to feed livestock;
- An EU International Panel working towards a common EU food policy has also argued recently that the food system is broken. Among their recommendations- eliminate all biofuel incentives.
- Input from, and the voice of, agricultural stakeholders in the developed world in the KJWA and FAO’s agroecology work stream is lacking and must be considered.

## **Response**

Agricultural leaders and their close partners need to engage and strategically counter the demonization of large scale crop and animal production with science based facts and solutions that address climate challenges and sustainable development goals. The North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA) is an appropriate platform where diverse agriculture and conservation partners can forge consensus and operate synergistically in advancing science-based solutions.

On this front, SfL proposes to recruit, support and facilitate focused teams of technical experts and other stakeholders who will formulate the submissions to the UNFCCC bodies that are drafting the Koronivia Joint Work Program on Agriculture. These include:

- Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience;
- Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland
- water management;
- nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems;
- Livestock management
- Bioenergy

Similar teams will be formed to formulate NACSAA’s input into FAO’s and CFS’s agroecology and food system reform initiatives.

A guiding principle in the formulation of recommendations and action plans will be a focus on: 1) sustainably increasing productivity and livelihoods (i.e. sustainable intensification); 2) enhancing adaptive capacity and improving resilience; and 3) delivering ecosystem services, sequestering carbon, and reducing and/or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

The livestock management team is largely formed, and we are now building out and resourcing the other teams that will be working to inform and shape the KJWA.

## **Timeline** (Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture Roadmap)

December 2018 Workshop on topic “Modalities for implementation” (completed)

May 2019                      Make submissions on topics “Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation/resilience” and “Improved soil carbon, health, fertility, and integrated systems”

June 2019	Workshops on topics “Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation/resilience” and “Improved soil carbon, health, fertility, and integrated systems”
September 2019	Make submissions on topic “Improved nutrient use and manure management”
November 2019	Workshop on topic “Improved nutrient use and manure management”
April 2020	Make submissions on topics “Improved livestock management systems” and “Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change”
June 2020	Workshops on topics “Improved livestock management systems” and “Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change”
September 2020	Make submissions on future topics not listed and KJWA progress
November 2020	Report to the Conference of the Parties on progress and outcomes

### **Principal Tasks**

- Identify and recruit experts for each issue area team
- Prepare relevant background materials (science, research, technology, key players, etc.)
- Facilitate discussions to identify adaptive management priorities and solution pathways
- Develop and socialize recommendations for submission to the KJWA and FAO
- Share knowledge and explore strategic partnership opportunities with NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Equip and support farmer leader ambassadors to advance and represent our platform and recommendations in UNFCCC and FAO climate and food systems forums.

### ***About Solutions from the Land***

*Solutions from the Land is a nonprofit corporation focused on land-based solutions to global challenges. Its mission is to identify and facilitate the implementation of policies, practices, and projects at a landscape scale that will result in land being sustainably managed to produce food, feed, fiber, and energy while protecting and improving critical environmental resources and delivering high value solutions to combat climate change. The president is Ernie Shea ([eshea@SfLdialogue.net](mailto:eshea@SfLdialogue.net)). For more information, see [www.sfldialogue.net/what\\_is\\_sfl.html](http://www.sfldialogue.net/what_is_sfl.html)*